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alone, without the accompanying letter-press, and without the engravings, some of which are so poor as rather to disfigure than ornament the work. In this reduced form we are sure that it would be welcome to a large public.

The new maps added by Mr. Johnson to the work are admirable specimens of map engraving, and we repeat that the work so far as it relates to America is eminently satisfactory.

12. — *Vanity Fair. A Novel without a Hero.* By WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY. With Illustrations by the Author. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1865. 3 vols. 16mo.

"VANITY Fair" needs no recommendation. But this beautiful edition of it deserves special notice. It is worthy of the merits of the novel and of the reputation of the University Press at Cambridge, from which it proceeds. In form, in style, in typographical execution, it is much superior to any other edition of the book ever published either in England or America. The designs with which Thackeray illustrated his works, which are, so to speak, his own commentary upon them, and without which the story loses half its point, — which illustrate Thackeray's character scarcely less than his pages, — are admirably reproduced.

It is pleasant to see the great house of Harper and Brothers engage at length in the publication of a really handsome book, and we trust that its reception by the public may be such as to induce them to proceed with the complete edition of Thackeray's works in uniform style, of which they hold out the promise.

13. — *Wet Days at Edgewood: with old Farmers, old Gardeners, and old Pastorals.* By the Author of "My Farm of Edgewood." New York: Charles Scribner. 1865. 12mo. pp. 324.

MR. DONALD G. MITCHELL is a well-known author and a successful farmer. He tells us that in his farm-house he has a library, of which the eastern alcove is filled with many books in many different languages, — the English, the German,

"The learned Greek, rich in fit epithets,
The Roman eloquent, the Tuscan grave,
The braving Spanish, and the smooth-tongued French."

Of all these tongues Mr. Mitchell is so far master as to read them with

pleasure; and in them all he has found pastoral poems, and works that treat of farming, of gardening, of the care of poultry and bees, of the raising of cattle and horses, and of divers other branches of the science and art of husbandry. Moreover, he is fond of a country life, and willing to amuse himself and such other persons as may care to listen by a little desultory chat about his favorite authors and their works.

His talk is, on the whole, pleasant; somewhat labored, perhaps, now and then, and ambitious, but not so to any offensive degree; and if there is an occasional display of rather cheap erudition, it is to be recollected that the talk was first addressed to a circle of ordinary magazine readers, and that the display is infrequently made.

Passages quoted from many and various writers, from Hesiod and Horace Walpole, from Charles Lamb and Tibullus, from Politiano, Jethro Tull, Columella, William Cobbett, and a hundred others, make up one third of the volume. The rest of it is composed of Mr. Mitchell's comments and criticisms, interspersed with episodical dissertations on "Virgil," "A Florentine Farm," "A British Tavern," "The Early Gardeners," and other such subjects.

In judging so slight a performance there is no place for severity of criticism. To break a butterfly upon the wheel is not only difficult, but also a wasteful excess of punishment. It is a task not much easier nor much less cruel to apply any high standard of requirement to such a writer as the one now under consideration: with a nonchalant air he lounges into the presence of the public; proposes nothing more laborious than "a few wet days of talk"; announces that in taking up the pen he has not laid aside the cigar, and that, while he discourses of John Abercrombie and the Gardener's Pocket Journal, he keeps his pipe in his mouth, and likes to burn "a little incense (Havana) to the nymph Volutia." Therefore we shall say but little of the merely literary merits and demerits of the book.

The style of our author seems to us to deserve reprehension as being slipshod, not a little affected, and characterized by that namby-pambyism of thought and expression which appears to be the besetting sin of a certain class of modern writers, who dearly love to "babble of green fields," and whose prattling imitative mannerism leads the reader to doubt if such as they could ever like the wholesome simpleness of country living unless they could talk about Izaak Walton and the "Complete Angler." Faults of literary execution far greater than any to be alleged against this book would be indeed altogether venial when compared with another charge that may fairly be preferred. Its tone in reference to the government of the country and the war in which the American people are engaged is such as must offend every right-

mindful man among the author's fellow-citizens. *Its tone*, we say, because the offence is committed, not by open assertion of opinion and plain statement of fact, but by insinuation and covert sneers. Mr. Mitchell does not declare that the United States Commissioner of Agriculture is a cheat and a charlatan. He prefers to convey that impression to the reader's mind by a page of dull pleasantries, ostensibly directed against some imaginary Byzantine to whom he supposes the Emperor might have intrusted the preparation of a certain agricultural work. It does not please our author to aver that Mr. Lincoln endeavors to make people "forget outrage" by cracking jokes. New York partisan newspapers may be depended upon for open attacks of that sort. Mr. Mitchell's purpose is answered when he can quote from an Italian author some advice on the right method of allaying a civil war among bees. The harvests of the Shenandoah Valley, the graves of our soldiers in Virginia, the shade of Virgil's Marcellus, are dragged needlessly into the text, in order that it may be hinted to us that our war for life is a frantic and sanguinary party conflict. Mr. Mitchell dreams a "Roman Dream":—"And what of that arrest of Seneca? 'It could hardly have happened,' they say, 'in the good old days of the Republic.' And with this mention as with the sound of a gun the Roman pastoral dream is broken." A New England village comes into the field of his vision; he sees a soldier's hospital and over it a flag flying: "It reminds of nearer and deadlier perils than ever environed the Roman Republic,—perils out of which if the wisdom and courage of the people do not find a way, some new Cæsar will point it with the sword."

We suppose we know what inference Mr. Mitchell would like us to draw; but we decline drawing it. We believe that Ohio, Connecticut, and several States beside, might, by summary arrest or other lawful process, be emptied of every enemy of the American government, and yet not a single Seneca be expatriated. We are of good cheer, have a lively faith in the wisdom and courage of the people, and are not dismayed by any apprehensions of a Cæsar to come.

If it be true that deadlier perils than ever threatened the Roman Republic do to-day beset the American state,—if indeed we have meaner foes within and a more dangerous enemy without,—we for our own part are supported by the belief that these mightier than Roman dangers confront a people mightier to withstand them than even was the pagan and despotic mistress of the ancient world. That in our great struggle precious blood has been spilt, is truly a saddening thought. But is the reflection so entirely mournful and depressing as this writer would have us believe? Wounds are grievous, yet there

are wounds whereby we are healed. By the Roman code it was ordained that, if the soldier slain in battle had traced in bloody letters on his shield his last will and testament, the instrument should bind his survivors, and be good in law. In these fresh red stains we do not see bloodmarks merely, but, as it seems to us, we can read solemn injunctions concerning the great heritage of which, by the death of those who have given their lives to their country, we are made heirs. To avert our eyes in weak horror, is to commit a crime against the dead, and to fail in duty toward the living. Better than this it would be to echo the sentiment of Conrad Heresbach's ideal farmer, who in his love of the country forgot love of country, "and, giving over all, lay hid in the pleasant countries, suffering other men in the mean time to be tost with the cares and business of the common weal," and himself, if he did nothing to kindle their ardor, doing nothing to damp it.

LIST OF SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

1. *The Life and Times of Sir William Johnson, Bart.* By William L. Stone. Albany : J. Munsell. 1865. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xv., 555, and xv., 544.
2. *Physical Geography of the Holy Land.* By Edward Robinson, D. D., LL. D. A Supplement to the late Author's *Biblical Researches in Palestine*. Boston : Crocker and Brewster. 1865. 8vo. pp. xvi., 399.
3. *Comparative Geography.* By Carl Ritter. Translated for the Use of Schools and Colleges, by William L. Gage. Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1865. 16mo. pp. xxx., 220.
4. *Zulu-Land ; or Life among the Zulu-Kaffers of Natal and Zulu-Land, South Africa.* With Map and Illustrations. By Rev. Lewis Grout, for fifteen years Missionary of the American Board in South Africa. Philadelphia : Presbyterian Publication Committee. [1864.] 12mo. pp. 351.
5. *A Critical and Grammatical Commentary on the Pastoral Epistle. With a Revised Translation.* By Rt. Rev. Charles J. Ellicott, D. D., Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. Andover : Warren F. Draper. 1865. 8vo. pp. 265.
6. *A View of the Evidences of Christianity. In Three Parts.* By William Paley, M. A., Archdeacon of Carlisle. With Annotations by Richard Whately, D. D., Archbishop of Dublin. New York : James Miller. 1865. 8vo. pp. viii., 407.
7. *German Rationalism, in its Rise, Progress, and Decline, in Relation to Theologians, Scholars, Poets, Philosophers, and the People ; a Contribution to the Church History of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.* By Dr. K. R. Hagenbach, Professor of Theology in the University of Basel. Edited